

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 4-13, 16, 19-20 and 23-24 were previously pending in the application. Claims 12, 13, 16, 20 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have amended claims 4, 19, and 23 herein. No new matter has been entered by way of this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4-13, 16, 19-20 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent 6,633,795 to Suzuki, et al. (“Suzuki”). Claims 12, 13, 16, 20 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 19, and 23 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4, 19 and 23 as amended, as well as the claims directly or indirectly dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

1. Amended independent claim 4 recites, *inter alia*:

a product constitution information storage means...
a raw material environmental information storage means for storing environmental information about *an amount of hazardous substance* included in each of the raw materials;
an obtaining means...; and
an integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information including *a total amount of the hazardous substance*, included in the obtained raw materials which constitute the designated product. (Emphasis

added)

Applicants submit that Suzuki does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements recited in amended independent claim 4.

Suzuki discloses a system to recycle manufactured product. Suzuki col. 39, lines 20-32 discloses “determining whether or not any one of the component parts of the restoration-inhibited article contains harmful material/substance or hazardous material/substance (step 254).” To this end, “material/substance information of the component parts … is compared with the harmful/hazardous material/substance information retrieved from the statutory regulation/standard information database 36 to thereby search the component parts containing the harmful material/substance or hazardous material/substance.” (Suzuki col. 39, lines 25-32)

Suzuki does not disclose at least “storage means for storing environmental information about *an amount of hazardous substance* included in each of the raw materials” and “*an integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information including a total amount of the hazardous substance, …*” as claimed in independent claim 4 (emphasis added). Instead, Step 207b1 and “col. 39, lines 20-32” as indicated by the Examiner only describes determining whether harmful/hazardous material is contained, nothing with respect to the amount of the harmful material is disclosed. Database 36 in Suzuki contains “information which concerns harmful materials/substances and hazardous materials inhibited from use in manufacturing articles or harmful materials, substances ad hazardous materials/substances which must not be used in reclaiming for landfill at the stable-type final disposal place or harmful materials/substances and hazardous materials/substances which must not be disposed of at managed-type final disposal place.” (Suzuki col. 39, lines 26-34) In

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summary, names of the harmful/hazardous materials/substances are stored in the database, the amount of hazardous substance included in the raw materials is not stored, the total amount of the hazardous substance included in the raw material in the designated product is not formed.

Therefore, Applicants submit the “amount of hazardous substance” included in the raw materials and the “total amount of hazardous substance” included in the raw material in the designated product, recited in independent claim 4 is patentably distinct from information stored in and formed from Suzuki’s statutory hazardous substance information database. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 4, 19 and 23 are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least this reason. Further, Applicants submit that claims 5-11, which are directly or indirectly dependent on amended independent claim 4 are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least this reason. Therefore Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejections.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented herein are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, should that in anyway facilitate prosecution.

Applicants believe no fee nor extension of time is required for this filing. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4736

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 4, 2005

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